

**J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College
Course Content Summary**

Course Prefix and Number: ESL 36 **Credits:** 5

Course Title: Academic Writing I

Course Description:

Provides instruction and practice in the writing process at the high-intermediate level. Develops competence in grammatical patterns of academic English. Credits are not applicable toward graduation. Lecture 5 hours. Total 5 hours per week.

General Course Purpose:

ESL 36 builds fluency and grammatical accuracy in academic writing.

Course Prerequisites and Co-requisites:

Prerequisite: Placement into ESL 36 or completion of ESL 26

Course Objectives

- Write a comprehensible response of at least 150 words in academic English to an instructor-provided prompt in a single sitting.
- Use the writing process to write at least six compositions with increasing accuracy and control of the following in simple sentences:
 - parts of speech
 - past, present, and future tenses
 - subject-verb agreement
 - nouns
 - determiners (articles, adjectives, quantifiers)
 - pronouns
 - modals
 - mechanics (capitalization, punctuation, spacing)
- Demonstrate basic use of a writing process (See Major Topics).

Major Topics to be Included

- Parts of speech
- Verb tenses
 - simple present
 - present progressive
 - simple past
 - past progressive
 - present perfect
 - present perfect progressive
 - past perfect
 - simple future
- Subject-verb agreement
- Nouns
- Determiners
 - articles
 - adjectives

- quantifiers
- Pronouns
- Modals
- Gerunds
- Infinitives
- Mechanics
 - capitalization
 - punctuation
 - spacing
- Basic writing process:
 - prewriting
 - drafting
 - revising for content
 - proofreading for grammar and mechanics

Date Created/Updated: January 1, 2026